

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A network system having a plurality of terminal devices and an electronic device whose function is shared by said plurality of terminal devices, said plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by users of said plurality of terminal devices through the network, said network system comprising:

a monitoring period determining system that determines a monitoring period with respect to operational parameters set by a first user;

a monitoring system that monitors whether a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received during the monitoring period; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if the monitoring system determines that the request for the modification is received after expiration of the monitoring period, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the request for modification is received during the monitoring period.

2. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, wherein the monitoring period is defined as a time period after the operational parameters are set by the first user.

3. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 1, wherein said monitoring period ~~setting-determining~~ system includes a time period inputting system, the monitoring period being determined based on the time period input through said time period inputting system.

4. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, wherein an end of the monitoring period is defined as a point of time.

5. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 1, wherein said monitoring period ~~setting-determining~~ system includes a time inputting system, an end of the monitoring period being determined based on the point of time which is input through said time inputting system.

6. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, wherein the message output by the modification control system is a message, which is transmitted to the second user, indicating that a current time is within the monitoring period.

7. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, wherein the message output by the modification control system is a message, which is transmitted to the first user, informing that the operational parameters have been modified by the second user within the monitoring period.

8. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, further including a permission requesting system that requests the first user for permission to modify the operational parameters.

9. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, further including:  
an effective period determining system that determines whether an effective period designated by the terminal device has expired; and  
a recovering system that sets the operational parameters to previously set values after expiration of the effective period.

10. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, further comprising a postponed period checking system that checks whether a postponed period for postponing the modification of the operational parameters has expired, the postponed period being instructed

by the terminal device, said modification controlling system enabling the modification of the operational parameters after expiration of the postponed period.

11. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 1, further including a setting management device which is connected with said terminal device and a plurality of electronic devices through the network, said setting management device being provided with a setting input system that is used to input modification settings of the operational parameters for said plurality of electronic ~~device~~devices, the modification settings input through said setting input system being set in said plurality of electronic devices.

12. (Original) The network system according to claim 11, wherein one of said plurality of terminal devices includes said setting management device.

13. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 11, wherein said setting management device includes an electronic device selecting system that selects at least one of the plurality of electronic devices as a target device whose operational parameters are to be modified, the modification settings input through said setting input system being effected as the modification settings of said at least one of the electronic ~~device~~devices selected by said electronic device selecting system.

14. (Original) The network system according to claim 1,  
wherein said terminal device includes an instruction system that transmits instructions to the electronic device using a predetermined communication protocol; and  
wherein said electronic device includes a job executing system that executes a job which is instructed by said instruction system and transmitted from said terminal device using the predetermined communication protocol,

the operational parameters including a parameter to be used when said electronic device communicates with said terminal device using the predetermined communication protocol.

15. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic device includes a printing system, the operational parameters including a parameter related to an output format when said electronic device prints a print job with said printing system.

16. (Original) The network system according to claim 15, wherein the parameter related to the output format includes a parameter related to a banner print.

17. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic device includes a printing system, the operational parameters including a parameter related to a sheet supply when said electronic device executes a print job with said printing system.

18. (Original) The network system according to claim 17, wherein said printing system is capable of using a plurality of types of sheets for printing, the parameter related to the sheet supply including a default type of a sheet to be used.

19. (Original) The network system according to claim 17, wherein said printing system includes a plurality of sheet trays containing sheets to be used for printing, the parameter related to the sheet supply including a default tray to be used.

20. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic device includes an interruption procedure execution system that executes an interruption procedure when a predetermined job is executed, the operational parameters including a parameter that enables/disables execution of the interruption procedure during the predetermined job.

21. (Currently Amended) A network system having a plurality of terminal devices and an electronic device whose function is shared by said plurality of terminal devices, said plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by users of said plurality of terminal devices through the network, said network system comprising:

a number of execution determining system that determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said electronic device in accordance with operational parameters set by a first user independent from the first user issuing a processing request;

a monitoring system that monitors whether the number of executed operations of said electronic device exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system when a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if the monitoring system determines that the number of executed operations of said electronic device exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the number of executed operations of said electronic device is equal to or less than the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system.

22. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 21,

wherein said terminal device includes [[a]]an instruction system that instructs said electronic device to execute a job;

wherein said electronic device includes a job executing system that executes the job instructed by said terminal device,

said number of execution determining system determining the number of executions of the job to be executed by said job executing system.

23. (Original) The network system according to claim 21, wherein the message output by the modification control system is a message, which is transmitted to the second

user, indicating that the number of executed operations of said electronic device is equal to or less than the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system.

24. (Original) The network system according to claim 21, wherein the message output by the modification control system is a message, which is transmitted to the first user, informing that the operational parameters have been modified by the second user before the number of executed operations of said electronic device exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system.

25. (Original) The network system according to claim 21, further including a permission requesting system that requests the first user for permission to modify the operational parameters.

26. (Original) The network system according to claim 21, further including:  
an effective period determining system that determines whether an effective period designated by the terminal device has expired; and  
a recovering system that sets the operational parameters to previously set values after expiration of the effective period.

27. (Original) The network system according to claim 21, further comprising a postponed period checking system that checks whether a postponed period for postponing the modification of the operational parameters has expired, the postponed period being instructed by the terminal device, said modification controlling system enabling the modification of the operational parameters after expiration of the postponed period.

28. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 21, further including a setting management device which is connected with said terminal device and a plurality of electronic devices through the network, said setting management device being provided with a setting input system that is used to input modification settings of the

operational parameters for said plurality of electronic ~~device~~devices, the modification settings input through said setting input system being set in said plurality of electronic devices.

29. (Original) The network system according to claim 28, wherein one of said plurality of terminal devices includes said setting management device.

30. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 28, wherein said setting management device includes an electronic device selecting system that selects at least one of the plurality of electronic devices as a target device whose operational parameters are to be modified, the modification settings input through said setting input system being effected as the modification settings for said at least one of the electronic ~~device~~devices selected by said electronic device selecting system.

31. (Original) The network system according to claim 21,  
wherein said terminal device includes an instruction system that transmits instructions to the electronic device using a predetermined communication protocol; and  
wherein said electronic device includes a job executing system that executes a job which is instructed by said instruction system and transmitted from said terminal device using the predetermined communication protocol,

the operational parameters including a parameter to be used when said electronic device communicates with said terminal device using the predetermined communication protocol.

32. (Original) The network system according to claim 21, wherein said electronic device includes a printing system, the operational parameters including a parameter related to an output format when said electronic device executes a print job with said printing system.

33. (Original) The network system according to claim 32, wherein the parameter related to the output format includes a parameter related to a banner print.

34. (Original) The network system according to claim 21, wherein said electronic device includes a printing system, the operational parameters including a parameter related to a sheet supply when said electronic device prints a print job with said printing system.

35. (Original) The network system according to claim 34, wherein said printing system is capable of using a plurality of types of sheets for printing, the parameter related to the sheet supply including a default type of a sheet to be used.

36. (Original) The network system according to claim 34, wherein said printing system includes a plurality of sheet trays containing sheets to be used for printing, the parameter related to the sheet supply including a default tray to be used.

37. (Original) The network system according to claim 21, wherein said electronic device includes an interruption procedure execution system that executes an interruption procedure when a predetermined job is executed, the operational parameters including a parameter that enables/disables execution of the interruption procedure during the predetermined job.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~A network~~ The network system having a plurality of terminal devices and an electronic device whose function is shared by said plurality of terminal device, said plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by said plurality of terminal devices through the network, said network system according to claim 1 further comprising:

~~———— a modifying system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with a request for modification of the operational parameters requested by a terminal device;~~

~~———— a message storing system that stores a message input by a user of the terminal device with which the operational parameters are modified in relationship with modified operational parameters; and~~

a message outputting system that outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified operational parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the modified operational parameters.

39. (Currently Amended) An electronic device for a network system having a plurality of terminal devices, a function of said electronic device being shared by the plurality of terminal ~~device~~devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by users of the plurality of terminal devices through the network, said electronic device comprising:

a monitoring time-period determining system that determines a monitoring time-period with respect operational parameters set by a first user;

a monitoring system that monitors whether a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received during the monitoring period; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if said monitoring system determines that the request for the modification is received after expiration of the monitoring period, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the request for modification is received during the monitoring period.

40. (Currently Amended) An electronic device for a network system having a plurality of terminal devices, a function of said electronic device being shared by the plurality of terminal ~~device~~devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by users of the plurality of terminal devices through the network, said electronic device comprising:

a number of execution determining system that determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said electronic device in accordance with operational parameters set by a first user independent from the first user issuing a processing request;

a monitoring system that monitors whether the number of executed operations of said electronic device exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system when a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if monitoring system determines that the number of executed operations of said electronic device exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the number of executed operations of said electronic device is equal to or less than the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system.

41. (Currently Amended) An electronic device for a network system having a plurality of terminal devices, a function of said electronic device being shared by the plurality of terminal ~~device~~devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by the plurality of terminal devices through the network, said electronic device comprising:

a modifying system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with a request for modification of the operational parameters requested by a terminal device independent from a processing request;

a message storing system that stores a message input by a user of the terminal device, with which the operational parameters are modified, in relationship with the modified operational parameters; and

a message outputting system that outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified operational parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the modified operational parameters.

42. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product~~computer-readable medium that stores a program which controls a computer to function as an electronic device for a network system having a plurality of terminal devices, a function of said electronic device being shared by the plurality of terminal ~~device~~devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by users of the plurality of terminal devices through the network, the ~~computer program product~~program controlling the computer to have functions of:

a monitoring time-period determining system that determines a monitoring time-period with respect operational parameters set by a first user;

a monitoring system that monitors whether a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received during the monitoring period; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if said monitoring system determines that the request for the modification is received after expiration of the monitoring period, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the request for modification is received during the monitoring period.

43. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium that stores a program ~~computer program product~~ which controls a computer to function as an electronic device for a network system having a plurality of terminal devices, a function of said electronic device being shared by the plurality of terminal ~~device~~devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by users of the plurality of terminal devices through the network, the ~~computer program product~~program controlling the computer to have functions of:

a number of execution determining system that determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said electronic device in accordance with operational parameters set by a first user independent from the first user issuing a processing request;

a monitoring system that monitors whether the number of executed operations of said electronic device exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system when a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if monitoring system determines that the number of executed operations of said electronic device exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the number of executed operations of said electronic device is equal to or less than the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system.

44. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product that~~computer-readable medium that stores a program which controls a computer to function as an electronic device

for a network system having a plurality of terminal devices, a function of said electronic device being shared by the plurality of terminal ~~device~~devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by the plurality of terminal devices through the network, the ~~computer program product~~program controlling the computer to have functions of:

a modifying system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with a request for modification of the operational parameters requested by a terminal device independent from a processing request;

a message storing system that stores a message input by a user of the terminal device, with which the are modified, in relationship with the modified operational parameters; and

a message outputting system that outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified operational parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the modified operational parameters.

45. (Currently Amended) A network system having a plurality of terminal devices and an electronic device whose function is shared by said plurality of terminal ~~device~~devices, said plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by users of said plurality of terminal devices through the network, said network system comprising:

a monitoring condition determining system that determines a monitoring condition with respect operational parameters set by a first user;

a monitoring system that monitors whether a request for modification of the operational parameters received from a second user meets the monitoring condition; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if the monitoring system determines that the request for the modification meets the monitoring condition, said modification control system executes a predetermined operation if said monitoring system determines that the request for modification does not meet the monitoring condition.

46. (New) The network system according to claim 1, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by a first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the monitoring period determining system determines the monitoring period with respect to the protection parameters set by the first user.

47. (New) The network system according to claim 21, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by a first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the number of execution determining system determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said electronic device in accordance with the protection parameters set by the first user.

48. (New) The network system according to claim 38, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by the first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters;

the message storing system stores a message input by the first user of the terminal device with which the functional parameters and protection parameters are modified in relationship with modified functional parameters and protection parameters; and

the message outputting system outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified functional parameters and protection parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the modified functional parameters and protection parameters.

49. (New) The network system according to claim 39, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by the first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the monitoring period determining system determines the monitoring period with respect to the protection parameters set by the first user.

50. (New) The network system according to claim 40, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by the first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the number of execution determining system determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said electronic device in accordance with the protection parameters set by the first user.

51. (New) The electronic device according to claim 41, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by a first user of one of the plurality of terminal devices, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters;

the message storing system stores a message input by the user, with which the functional parameters and protection parameters are modified, in relationship with the modified functional parameters and protection parameters; and

the message outputting system outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified functional parameters and protection parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the functional parameters and protection parameters.

52. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 42, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by the first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the monitoring period determining system determines the monitoring period with respect to the protection parameters set by the first user.

53. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 43, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by a first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the number of execution determining system determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said electronic device in accordance with the protection parameters set by the first user.

54. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 44, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by a first user of one of the plurality of terminal devices, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters;

the message storing system stores the message input by the user, with which the functional parameters and protection parameters are modified, in relationship with the modified functional parameters and protection parameters; and

the message outputting system outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified functional parameters and protection parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the modified functional parameters and protection parameters.

55. (New) The network system according to claim 45, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by the first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters;

the monitoring condition determining system determines the monitoring condition with respect to the protection parameters set by the first user;